



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Jacksonville District

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CORPS OF ENGINEERS CONTINUES RELEASE FROM LAKE OKEECHOBEE

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will begin a Level 1 pulse release from Lake Okeechobee to the Caloosahatchee River and the St. Lucie Canal on Saturday, August 2, 2003. Rainfall over the basin has resulted in wet conditions in the tributary area and increased inflow to the Lake. Water Conservation Area 2A and 3A are above their respective regulation schedules and water supply demands are low which minimizes the capability to send Lake Okeechobee releases south.

Pulse releases are designed to mimic nature and provide discharges from the lake to the estuaries via the St. Lucie Canal to the east and the Caloosahatchee River to the west. They attempt to strike a balance between the lake's littoral zone and the estuaries. In the future, the ongoing Everglades restoration, known as CERP, is designed to provide storage for much of this water and minimize these types of releases.

Thursday's lake level was 15.39 feet, in Zone D of the WSE (Water Supply/Environment) regulation schedule, approximately 0.52 feet below Zone C. As

the wet season progresses, additional pulse releases may be necessary. This pulse release will continue for 10 days at an average rate of 1600 cubic feet per second (cfs) to the Caloosahatchee River and 730 cfs to the St. Lucie Canal. The pulse release will be made through Structures S-77 and S-80.

For further information, please call the Jacksonville District Public Affairs Office at 904-232-2236 or (cell) 904-614-4976.